

The following communications were received from His Excellency the Governor:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, STATE OF TEXAS,  
AUSTIN, June 2, 1873.

*Hon. E. B. Pickett, President of the Senate of the State of Texas:*

SIR: I have to inform you that I have approved the act entitled "An act making appropriations for the support of the State government for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 1872, and ending August 31, 1873, and for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 1873, and ending August 31, 1874," with the exception of the following items which are disapproved and returned for consideration, viz.:

Under the head of Comptroller's Office, for the year ending August 31, 1873, the item, "Salary of two additional clerks, at \$1500 per annum, \$3000."

In regard to this item I call the attention of the Legislature to my veto message on this subject sent to the House of Representatives on the twenty-third of April last. These two clerks make, with the pension clerk, fifteen clerks for permanent employment for 1873, and must be the two clerks objected to in that message. They make for that office an unnecessary number of clerks.

Also the item, "Printing, binding and distributing

forms, tax laws and receipts, etc., with instructions and current printing, \$9000."

This sum is totally unnecessary and extravagant, and when stricken out still leaves the sum of six thousand dollars for printing, binding, etc., for that year. This amount of six thousand dollars still left in the bill is six times as much as was required in 1866 for printing in that office annually, and three times as much as was thought sufficient by the present Comptroller and appropriated for the use of his office by the Legislature in 1870.

This extravagance for printing in that office has its commencement in the act approved May 19, 1871, where an item for printing, binding, etc., in the Comptroller's office, twelve thousand dollars was inserted. At that time I was about to object to the item, but the argument was used with me that it was necessary to print some work or abstract of patented lands for the use of his office, and I accordingly did not object to the item. Since then he has had that abstract printed (2000 copies), at a cost of \$10,190 to the State. It was this item which I had in view in my special message to the Legislature of March 5, in the inquiry propounded therein: "8. Whether the Comptroller or any of his clerks have profited by way of per centage retained on any contracts for work done for his office?"

There can be no further pretense that he wants more abstracts of patents printed, as 2000 copies should be enough to last a generation.

Again, under the head of "Comptroller's Office, for the year ending August 31, 1874," I object to the item, "For printing, binding and distributing forms, tax laws and receipts, with instructions and current printing, \$9000." The same reasons apply to this that apply to the above item of \$9000 for 1873. It is simply a perpetuation of useless extravagance in printing for that office, using the identical words of the appropriation for the previous year. When stricken out it still leaves the unnecessarily large sum of six thousand dollars for printing in the Comptroller's office for 1874.

Again, under the head of "Attorney General's Office, for the year ending August 31, 1873," the item "Contingent expenses of Auditorial Board and salary of auditing clerk, \$1500;" also, under same head, "for the year ending August 31, 1874," the item "Contingent expenses of the Auditorial Board and salary of auditing clerk \$1500."

These two items in the Attorney General's department are not necessary, because the Auditorial Board has ceased to exist since the first of January, and all claims against the board for expenses and clerk hire have been settled.

Respectfully,

EDMUND. J. DAVIS, Governor.